

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/726,056	DONAGHEY, ROBERT J.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Albert T. Chou	2616	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to April 1, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                     | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art does not teach or fails to suggest the following:

"A method, a device and a computer-readable medium containing instructions to perform a method of distributing virtual circuit identifiers associated with gateways in a network, comprising:

- receiving, at a first router/switch, packets comprising a plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers associated with gateways in the network;
- determining if any of the gateways are connected to the first router/switch;
- assigning, at the first router/switch, second virtual circuit identifiers to connected gateways; and
- initiating the transmission of a message from the first router/switch to the connected gateways informing the connected gateways of the plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers", as specified in the independent claims 1, 4 and 7.

"A network comprising:

- a plurality of gateways; and
- a router connected to at least one of the plurality of gateways and configured to:

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- receive packets, flooded from other routers in the network, comprising a plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers associated with the plurality of gateways in the network,
- assign second virtual circuit identifiers to the at least one of the plurality of gateways, and
- initiate the transmission of a message to the at least one of the plurality of gateways informing the at least one gateway of the plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers”, as specified in the independent claim 10.

“A method, a computer-readable medium containing instruction to perform a method, a gateway and a system of forwarding packets received at a first gateway in a network, comprising:

- receiving a message at the first gateway, the message comprising a plurality of virtual circuit identifiers associated with other gateways in the network;
- receiving packets for transmission from the first gateway to a destination address associated with a second gateway; and
- sending the received packets towards the second gateway using one of the received plurality of virtual circuit identifiers”, as specified in the independent claims 13, 15, 17 and 19.

The closest prior art, either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US Patent No. 6,275,494 to Endo et al. disclose "Packet Switching System, Packet Switching Network And Packet Switching Method"
- US Patent No. 6,147,994 to Duree et al. disclose "Telecommunications System With A Connection Processing System"
- US Patent No. 6,683,865 to Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al. disclose "System For Routing And Switching In Computer Networks"
- US Patent No. 6,108,708 to Iwata discloses "Connection-Oriented Network Using Distributed Network Resources And Predetermined VPIs For Fast VC Establishment"
- US Patent No. 6,178,169 to Hodgkinson et al. disclose "Method of Transmitting An ATM Cell Over An ATM Network"
- US Patent No. 5,467,349 to Huey et al. disclose "Address Handler for An Asynchronous Transfer Mode Switch"
- US Patent No. 5,463,621 to Suzuki discloses "Fast Connection Setup Interfaces Using Pre-assigned Virtual Channel Identifiers"

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert T. Chou whose telephone number is 571-272-6045. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 17:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on 571-272-3088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Albert T. Chou  
April 5, 2006

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HASSAN KIZOU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600